

Washington, DC -- Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (D-Lakewood) gave the following speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives today, celebrating Monday's 36th anniversary of Title IX. The landmark legislation paved the way for greater women's equality by banning discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs that receive federal funding.

"A player dunked in a Sunday night basketball game. Most Americans might not think that's news, but when you tell them the player was the WNBA's Candace Parker, only the second woman to dunk in WNBA history, you get a different reaction.

"Parker's slam dunk is just one more sign that Title IX is a slam dunk.

"At its core, Title IX is a one-sentence law that bans sex discrimination in federally-funded education programs.

"Title IX tore down the quotas in law and medical schools that would limit enrollment of women to 15 per year.

"Today, more women than men are attending college. And in law schools, women are the majority.

"In 1970, only 1 out of every 27 high school girls played varsity sports.

"Today, that figure is two in five. And these girls are reaping the benefits that come from sports: lower rates of substance abuse, unintended pregnancies, breast cancer, and osteoporosis.

"Title IX has made it possible for women to pursue any career they want. I am excited to see what today's little girls will do with the opportunities Title IX will provide them."